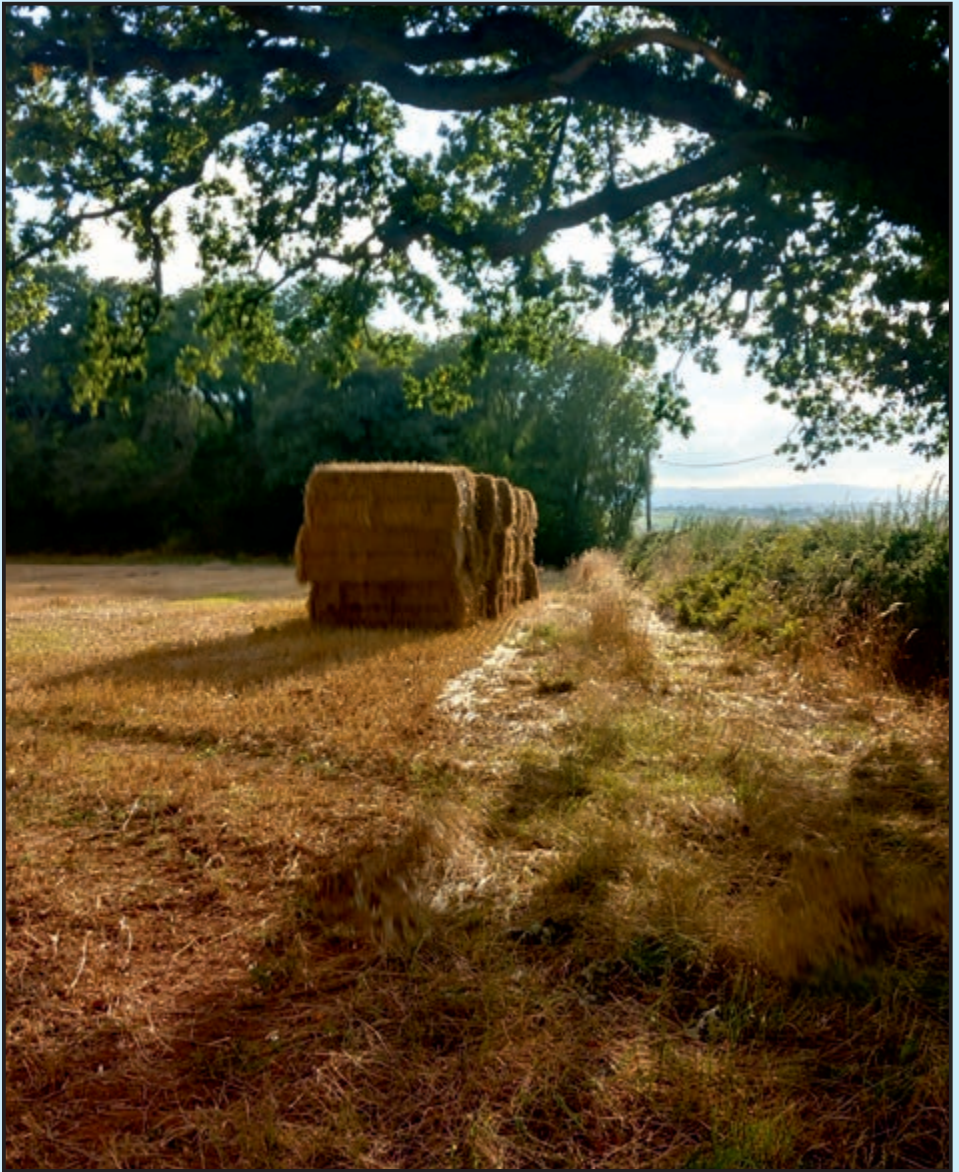


The Parish Magazine

St Mary's, Alveley ♦ St Andrew's, Quatt



OCTOBER 2024

60p

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snowdrophomecareltd@gmail.com

The Rector writes

Dear Friends

As I sit in my study writing this letter I can see the trees beginning to wear their autumn colours but with many of the leaves already falling before they've really had time to change. For me autumn is both a beautiful and a sad time. In the midst of the beauty things are withering away and dying; winter is waiting in the wings. In late October you often start to get a sense that the coming winter means business – gales, fog, cold and frost are all likely to be part of the picture. Following a summer of many long, bright, sunny days, the days are definitely shorter, and the nights longer. Autumn is well and truly underway and some of us may not be looking forward to the dark cold winter nights ahead. Fortunately, there are highlights along the way such as Bonfire Night, Christmas Lights, Advent and Christmas. Imagine winter without those events. The winter months would be darker.

One person who turns darkness into light is Jesus, who said, "I am the Light of the World", which is a very strange thing for Jesus to say if you really think about it. What does he mean? It's not so much that Jesus magically changes everything or everybody, but it does mean that he is the beacon of all that is true and all that is right, and by keeping our eyes on him as he lights our way, we will be transformed, as more light fills our lives.

Jesus also said that he came so that "we could have life to the full." A promise of a life knowing that God loves you, a life of joy and contentment, a life of doing all kinds of good things, a life that can cope with the hard times, a life of inner freedom, a life that knows why you were born, a life that answers those difficult questions that have never been answered: a full life!

Rev Jon

United Benefices of Alveley and Quatt

Rector	Rev. Jon Aldwinckle , The Rectory, Alveley (email: revjonaldwinckle@outlook.com)	01746 562159
Retired Clergy	Rev. Dr. Wendy Rylance , Roughton Farmhouse	01746 716399
Reader	Sue Chidwick , 28 Greenway Avenue, Alveley	01746 781786
Lay Pastoral Worker	Wendy Aldwinckle , The Rectory, Alveley	01746 562159
Safeguarding Officer	Jackie Hampson , South View, 23 Daddlebrook Rd	01746 780034

Contact for Alveley & Quatt Methodists

Deacon Becky Lovatt **01299 826641**

St. Mary The Virgin, Alveley, WV15 6ND

Churchwarden	Penny Jenkins , 34 Birch Grove, Alveley	01746 780660
ChurchWarden	Alison Pearson , Brookfield, Daddlebrook Rd, Alveley	07882 888875
Treasurer	Anne Simms , Willowell House, Quattford	01746 768955

St. Andrew's Quatt

Churchwarden	Ann Lee , 7 Brook Hollow, Bridgnorth	01746 761138
Deputy Warden	Sara Douglas , 1 The Dower House, Quatt	01746 781825
Treasurer	Steve Jones , 72 Manor Road South, Kidderminster	01562 753828

From the Parish Registers

Baptism

We welcome you

August 31

Quinn Hampson - St Mary's Alveley

Weddings

Those whom God Has joined together

August 24

Christopher Darbyshire & Maria Bayliss St Mary's, Alveley

September 14

Steven Millward & Nicola Evans St Mary's, Alveley

September 22

Richard Clarke & Lucy Braithwaite St Mary's Alveley

Funerals

Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

September 10

William Picton St Mary's Alveley

September 24

John Marshall Stourbridge Crematorium

COVER PICTURE

The harvest is over.

Photo by Anne Edwards

For all church enquiries please visit our website

<https://www.alveleyandquattchurches>. In an emergency please call

Rev Jon Aldwinckle (07484806605)

For Alveley burial ground enquiries call Jenny Sirrell 07484806605

OCTOBER SERVICES

Duty rotas for St. Mary's are on page 20.

Sunday October 6

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's

Wednesday October 9

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's

Sunday October 13

10.30 a.m. Morning Prayer St. Andrew's

10.30 a.m. Worship 4 All Ages St. Mary's

Sunday October 20

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Harvest Festival St. Mary's

Wednesday October 23

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's

Sunday October 27

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion St. Mary's

10.30 a.m. 20-20-20 St. Mary's

4.00 p.m. Teatime Praise St Andrew's

ST. MARY'S HARVEST FESTIVAL & LUNCH - SUNDAY OCTOBER 20th

You are warmly invited to Harvest Festival and Thanksgiving with Holy Communion at St. Mary's Church, Alveley on Sunday 20th October at 10.30 a.m.

All are invited to join us for a Harvest Lunch after the service.

If you are able to help in any way please contact either Church Warden or Wendy Aldwinckle.

Any gifts or produce presented during the service will be donated to Bridgnorth Food Bank.

An elderly villager received a telephone call from a scammer who said: 'I've got all your passwords.'

The villager replied: 'Excellent. What are they? Just wait till I get a pen.'

NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S, QUATT

We have reached October - the tenth month of the year. It's strange that Oct in Latin means eight - and according to the Roman republican calendar, which was only eight months long, it was indeed the eighth month. In 45 BC Julius Caesar ordered a calendar based on a solar year and extended the calendar to include January and February so then October became the 10th month.

I think we all associate October with the vibrant colours of the leaves falling from the trees. It's a wonderful sight. Winter is approaching and to be quite honest who can now predict what weather we will get as climate change is certainly changing our seasons. Personally I am hoping for a mild winter as I don't enjoy the cold weather !

It's amazing when you look at what days we mark this month - some historical like Trafalgar day on 21st, some less so such as National Poetry day on the 3rd, National Dessert day on 14th, Apple day on 21st, World Opera day on 25th, - I could go on as there are so many, but my favourite is World Smile Day which is on October 5th. In my opinion it should be every day really as a smile can mean so much to another person especially if they are feeling low. It takes 44 muscles to smile and comes from the face but it really comes from your heart. If someone smiles at you then don't forget to return one. It costs nothing!

Our Remembrance service will be held on Sunday 10th November at 10.30am prompt. Do come along and join us to pay your respect to those who gave their lives in past Wars. We will be serving coffee and refreshments afterwards. *Ann Lee*

DUTY ROTA AT ST. ANDREW'S (ST. MARY'S ROTA IS ON PAGE 20)

Date	1st Reading	2nd reading	Intercessions
October 13	Yvonne Miles Job 23.1-9,16,17	Steve Jones Mark 10.17-31	Ann Lee
October 27	Sara Douglas Mark 10.46-52		Ann Lee

Please let Ann know if you cannot be there. 01746 761138

WHITTALL MEADOWS TRUST

The Trust's next meeting will take place on **22nd November 2024** when the Trustees will be pleased to consider requests for financial support from village organisations.

Applications should be made in writing or by email to:

Jan Higgins

Clerk to the Whittall Meadows Trust

11, Mallards Close,
Alveley, Bridgnorth,
WV15 6JL

Email: jan.higgins@btinternet.com

Applications should arrive no later than **15th November 2024**.

Applicants should be aware that the Trustees favour grants which support purchases of specific equipment or services rather than general running expenses. Applications should give full details of your project and its costs.

THE HOWARD THOMPSON BEQUEST

The Howard Thompson Bequest donates funds to local organisations (not individuals) for promoting Christian faith, education and training. The Trustees are pleased to have been able to support a number of local groups over the last year.

This is a benevolent fund dedicated to supporting local organisations and voluntary groups. The trustees are happy to receive applications for grants from eligible groups.

Please put your application in writing to Jackie Hampson at:
howardthompsonbf@gmail.com

Applications need to be received by Monday 14 October 2024 when they will be considered by the Trustees. *Jackie Hampson*

ALVELEY CHARITY GRANTS

Our objective is to provide relief for members of Alveley & Romsley Parishes, by way of making grants or providing services to reduce either need, hardship or distress. Having absorbed an educational charity in the past, we also consider Educational assistance grants from July onwards, which are considered in the Autumnal meeting. A specific Educational application form is available on request. For any other assistance grant applications, you can contact me, Daryl Cooper (780378) email: alveleycharities@gmail.com

Daryl Cooper

ALVELEY OLD CHAPEL

In October we are looking to add warming lunches to our menu.

Soups and casseroles will be showing their face together with crumbles with hot custard together with other puddings.

We hope you will be able to join us for lunch or just tea and cake.

Some of the aprons used by volunteers are missing. If you used to volunteer but no longer do so, please check if you still have an apron. If you do, please return it.

Please note you will not be able to get through to the Old Chapel on our old telephone number.

Mo Morgan, Manager, Alveley Old Chapel Tearoom Tel. 07777 624664

ALVELEY ART GROUP

The Art Group continues every alternate Monday 10am-1pm (black bin day) in the Village Hall. We said our goodbyes to Debbie who, sadly, has now moved house.. Come and join us for tea, chat, biscuits and maybe a bit of art!

Jane Hunt 01746 780280

MESSY CHURCH

The first Saturday of September saw the return of Messy Church to St. Mary's Church after a short summer break.

The theme this month was the Good Samaritan, focussing on caring for each other and all in our community.

The children enjoyed making several crafts – bookmarks, decorated hearts and story spin wheels. They also put together a picture board describing the Good Samaritan story [on display in church].

An afternoon tea of sandwiches, sausage rolls, fruit and cakes followed story time and praise, led by Rev Jon.

Messy Church in October [Saturday 5th 3-5pm] will be thinking about harvest, with more crafts, songs and a tasty tea. All the children of Alveley and Quatt, with their families and carers, are welcome.

Alison Pearson

Fresh out of theological college, a young pastor found a curate's position at a prestigious church. One Sunday early on, he was given the opportunity to preach. He prepared diligently - perhaps a bit too excited to use all the learning he'd acquired - and worked hard to make his words eloquent and smooth. Shaking hands at the end of the service, he was approached by one of the older ladies who was known and respected in both the church and community. "Sir," she said with a smile, "your sermon was like the peace of God!"

The young preacher's grin widened and his chest puffed a bit ... until she continued on, "it surpassed ALL understanding!"

ALVELEY VILLAGE HALL

Just Some Theatre perform "The Plot Thickens" on Friday 8th November at 7.30pm. It's inexperienced Alex's first day on the job. Before he can even get to grips with the tea urn and stationary cupboard, he is given his first task- which proves to be absolute murder....

Just Some Theatre ensures "A Good Night Out" with fun, laughter and escapism for their audiences.

Tickets for this Arts Alive sponsored production are £12 adult, £6 child/student and are available by calling Norma on 780 478, Una 780 568 or from the Londis Foodstore. Also available from www.arsalive.co.uk

Christmas Market on Saturday 7th December starting at 12am. A little early perhaps to be mentioning the festive period but please make a date in your diaries. Anyone wishing to run a stall please contact me, Norma 780 478, as soon as possible, as the hall soon gets full.

Norma Crabtree

QUATT VILLAGE HALL

On October 6th at 2.30pm Canadian artists flautist Lara Deutsch and guitarist Adam Cicchillitti explore classical music through the lens of folk traditions from around the world.

Nicholas Collett returns to Quatt on Friday November 1st after previously performing three of his brilliant plays, "Spitfire Solo", "Your Bard" and "Nelson, the Sailors Story". This time he has support from the very excellent Gavin Robertson in 'Done to Death'. This is another "not to be missed" show. The performance starts at 7.30pm. There will be refreshments available to be purchased at the performance, but please bring along your own tippie.

On 23rd November 'Make Good' comes to Quatt Village Hall. This is a new musical telling the story of the Post Office scandal. The show starts at 7.30pm.

Tickets for these events can be bought at our Box Office at Quatt Farm Shop or online at Ticketsource.

Steph Hinton

Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going.

ALVELEY AND ROMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of Alveley and Romsley Parish Council will be held at The Pavilion on Tuesday 8th October beginning with Open Forum at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and Open Forum is your opportunity to comment on agenda items or other village matters you would like to bring to the attention of the council.

The agenda will be available on the notice boards nearer the time.

Isley Jakeman, Chair, Alveley and Romsley Parish Council

BRIDGNORTH COMMUNITY TRANSPORT - ALVELEY MINIBUS

Bridgnorth Community Transport runs a minibus service from Alveley on the first Thursday of the month. We do a door to door pick up (so no having to get to bus stops) with the first pick up at 10.00 am. The service takes the passengers to Aldi in Bridgnorth then, when everyone has finished their shopping, the return journey is made.

We accept concessionary bus passes but for those who are not eligible for a bus pass then a fare of £5 is charged. There is an annual membership of £10 and this can be applied for, along with more details on how to book a seat, via a call to the office on 01746 768539 between 9.30-12.30 Monday to Friday.

Myfanwy & Sue for BCTG

CHAPEL CRAFTERS

We have had a few enquiries regarding our Annual Craft Sale in November. Unfortunately, due to poor attendance and the increased cost of raw materials, sadly we decided not to proceed this year.

Most of the boxes are now finished and hopefully in the next magazine there might be a picture, the beautiful bags are nearly finished and we will be looking to start a new project. If you would like to learn a new craft or bring something with you please join us, we are a friendly bunch and you will be made very welcome.

Happy Crafting.

Jenny and Angie

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE COMMUNITY PROJECT

A public meeting has been arranged to discuss the results of the two recent community surveys and the way forward for the proposed new organisation. The meeting will be held on Wednesday October 23rd at Alveley Sports Club at 8.00pm.

Doug Portsmouth

SEVERN VALLEY COUNTRY PARK

Work to improve our play areas will have begun at the end of September. As the work happens, the play areas will be closed. For the 'Boat' play area, this will be from 23rd September. The 'Sand Pit' play area doesn't have a confirmed date yet, but it will be more towards the beginning of October. Both play areas will have fencing installed to provide an enclosed space for children to enjoy. Equipment in the 'Boat' Play area is being replaced. The type of the equipment will practically be like for like but the material used will be more durable and longer lasting. (And the roundabout should spin more smoothly!) The whole area will be covered in durable matting which will help combat how muddy the play area gets during winter. The 'Sand Pit' play area is going to have a top up of sand, the wooden posts in the middle of the sand will be removed and the basket swing will return.

The funding for this work has come from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This is part of the UK Government's Levelling Up scheme which is providing funding around the country to support improvements in community and place, local businesses and, people and skills. Elsewhere in the village the work, undertaken by the Rights of Way team, to improve some of the footpaths is also being funded this way.

Through October, the visitor centre and café will be open Wednesday to Sunday. For half term, (28th October to 2nd November), they will open every day. After half term we possibly may go straight to opening Friday, Saturday and Sunday only so keep an eye on our Facebook page or webpage for more details.

Our Wild Toddler sessions continue until 16th October, starting at 11a.m.. The themes for the sessions are Autumn (2nd Oct), Smells (9th Oct), and Halloween (16th Oct). It's £5.50 per toddler (younger siblings up to 18 months are free) and the price includes jam on toast and a squash. During half term, our ranger will be leading a 'Camouflage Fun and Shelter Building' session on Wed 30th October. It's £4.50 per child and accompanying adults are free. Call us on 01746 781 192 to book your place.

We are taking bookings for our Christmas Wreath Making sessions. This year there will be 4 sessions in total. These will be on Wednesday 4th December, 10am-12.30pm and 1pm-2.30pm and Wednesday 11th December, 10am-12.30pm and 1pm-2.30pm. The session starts with a walk around the park to collect natural materials to decorate your wreath. The base is a ring of willow, prepared by our volunteers and ribbons and orange segments are provided to add to the festive look of the wreath. It's £12 per wreath with a hot drink and mince pie included in the price. Call us on 01746 781 192 to book.

Susie Comaish, Severn Valley Country Park Visitor Centre Manager 781192

ALVELEY W.I.

Our thanks go to the members who formed a small group to organise our September meeting. We had some great cakes, we laughed a lot whilst doing some craft work organised for us by Carol and then we were amazed by Liz's exploits encountered en route to her numerous visits to Denman. All in all it was a tremendous success and committee members relaxed and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our letter has been received by County. They will be sending a representative to our AGM in November to oversee our closure.

Tuesday 8th October will see a group of us meeting at Quatt Farm Shop at 9.30 for breakfast. Please let Liz know if you would like to join us.

On 9th October we welcome the return of one of our favourite speakers - Max Keen - this time his talk is Lord Nelson - Britain's Greatest Naval Hero. Our tea hostesses will be Penny Inskip, Irene Orford and Sue White.

This will be our last organised meeting before the AGM on **13th November**.

Pam Worton

MONDAY CLUB - AGE UK

We are now quite a lively thriving group with several new members who are all settling in well. Unfortunately one of our older members is now no longer able to join us due to on-going health problems but is happily settled in a care home, and we wish her well.

We have been trying to vary our Mondays with different activities and in August Jean Cresswell came and did some easy chair exercise with the ladies which everyone enjoyed - although there were a few aches the next day! In September we used the Community Bus for the first time, taking everyone to Kidderminster for lunch. This was very successful and we hope to use it more in the coming months.

As we go forward towards winter if you or anyone you know would benefit from Monday Club please contact us, you will be under no obligation to come every week but most members do.

As always, thanks to our volunteers. We have one new volunteer and a previous one who has rejoined us but we could still use some more, particularly drivers to pick up members from their homes at 10am and return them at 2pm. If you think you could help please contact us.

Sue Taylor 0797334349 Angie Lander 07952172691

Pat Bowyer 07964377840

ALVELEY TENNIS CLUB

Alveley Tennis Club is celebrating increasing numbers in membership, so if you fancy coming down with a view to joining we have a FREE OPEN Session on Saturday October 12th (10am to 12 midday). All abilities welcome, 16 years old and over . No need to book, no membership required. Entry is free and we will be waiting to welcome you.

For further info call Roger Whitworth on 07946 094488 or Jan Higgins 01746 780259 or email Jan.higgins@btinternet.com.

Brian Davies

MUSIC WITH ANDREW AND MO - POSTPONED

Due to circumstances beyond their control, Andrew Crabtree and Mo Morgan's planned evening of music from the 40s in the Old Chapel on Friday October 18th has had to be postponed to a future date, yet to be announced.



SUSTAINABLE BRIDGNORTH

The AGM and Repair Cafe Presentation, in the very cosy Platform 10 at the rear of Our Green Shop (which was also open for viewing), provided good food for thought and created an interesting discussion. Repair Cafés are community-based initiatives where people come together to repair various items, such as electronics, clothing, furniture, and appliances, instead of discarding them. They save people money, reduce landfill, teach fast-disappearing mend and repair skills, and fix “non-usable items”.

As I conclude my tenure as Chair (and many other roles), I am proud of the milestones we have reached. Our grassroots efforts have empowered residents, businesses, and organisations to embrace sustainability, focusing on waste and energy reduction.

Notably, our #PreventPointlessPlastic campaign, launched in 2018, gained significant local support and media attention, leading to impactful changes in our community's approach to plastic use and resulted in Bridgnorth being accredited as a Plastic Free Community. As a result of that, we now have the community-owned 'Our Green Shop'. I also got my 15 seconds of fame on Midlands Today! The 2021 "Make One Change" initiative encouraged individuals to replace single-use plastics with sustainable alternatives, resulting in the potential reduction of 18,720 plastic bottles annually, which if laid end to end is the equivalent of 23 times the length of the Severn Valley Railway.

Our online conferences/webinars: 'A Wasteless Britain?' for Plastic Free July 2021 and 'From Global to Local - Positive Solutions for the Climate' for Plastic Free February 2022 were very informative and well-attended sessions. Additionally, our two Bridgnorth Green Festivals have been great platforms for raising awareness about environmental issues, showcasing local ecological groups, and businesses, and promoting sustainable practices.

I'm delighted to share that my contributions during my incumbency earned me the honour of being selected as a Baton Bearer for the 2022 Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay. Additionally, I have twice been a finalist for the Environmental Professional of the Year Award and progressed from a chartered member to a fellow of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM).

While our achievements are commendable, the group continues to face challenges, particularly in securing volunteers and funding for future events. I would like to encourage community members to step forward and support our initiatives, ensuring that Sustainable Bridgnorth continues to thrive. Together, we can carry on making Bridgnorth and district a model for sustainability.

See you soon,
Kath Norgrove

ALL IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

200 ago, on 21st October 1824, British mason, bricklayer and cement manufacturer Joseph Aspdin was granted a patent for Portland cement. His son William developed a stronger version and is regarded as the inventor of modern Portland cement.

175 years ago, on 17th October 1849, Frederic Chopin, Polish composer and piano virtuoso, died.

100 years ago, on 15th October 1924, the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour, was designated a National Monument.

90 years ago, on 16th October 1934, the Long March took place. Chinese communists led by Mao Zedong began a year-long 8000 mile march from south-east China to north-west China to evade the armies of the Chinese National Party and establish a new base. It led to the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Also 90 years ago, on 24th October 1934, the earliest known recording of the song *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town* was released. Performed by banjo player Harry Reser and his band and sung by Tom Stacks, it has since been recorded by more than 200 other artists.

65 years ago, on 11th October 1959, Britain began introducing postcodes. They began in Norwich and by 1974 had been rolled out across the whole country.

60 years ago, on 14th October 1964, American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for combatting racial inequality in the USA without violence.

50 years ago, on 2nd October 1974, US researchers announced that smoking cannabis causes lasting brain damage. More than 50 medical schools and research centres took part in the year-long government-funded study.

Also 50 years ago, on 9th October 1974, Oskar Schindler, Austria-Hungary born German businessman died. He saved more than 1100 Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories. The story is told in the film *Schindler's List*.

40 years ago, on 12th October 1984, an IRA bomb exploded during the Conservative Party Conference at the Grand Hotel in Brighton, killing 5 people. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is believed to have been the primary target, but she escaped injury.

Also 40 years ago, on 16th October 1984, South African Anglican bishop Desmond Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the opposition to apartheid.

20 years ago, on 2nd October 2004, the first Parkrun was held in Bushy Park, London. Parkruns are now held every Saturday morning at more than 2000 locations in 22 countries - including Severn Valley Country Park in Alveley!

FREE EVENT



Dementia Information Day

An event for people affected by dementia across Shropshire.

Feeling lost about dementia? Find clarity, support and a pool of resources all in one place through a multitude of organisations we've called together to guide and help you.

COME ALONG!

 **FREE ON-SITE PARKING**

Friday 22nd November
10.00am - 3.00pm
 Bridgnorth Rugby Club
 Edgar Davies Ground
 Bandon Lane
 Bridgnorth
 WV15 5AD

Get in touch to find out more | **01743 245555**
karen.corcoran@radfieldhomecare.co.uk








St Mary's Church, Alveley

Invite you to make a note in your diary

More details will appear in the next Parish Magazine



Christmas Tree Festival

29th November
to 2nd December 2024

Theme will be
Christmas Music & Carols



Be Café

Bereavement Café
meets at The Old Chapel
every 3rd Monday afternoon of the month
2pm until 4pm

Our next meeting will be 21st October

This is a safe space for those who need to chat
and an opportunity to meet others and share experiences
of your loss

Our aim is to listen over a cup of tea and cake



What we can offer: a safe space, to listen,
opportunity to get out of the house for a while,
bereavement literature, memory craft ideas to remember your loved
ones, prayer if required

The café is run by the ladies of St Mary's Church
There is no cost or admission

You will be assured of a warm and comforting welcome

St Mary's Church, Alveley

Saturday October 5th

3pm – 5pm

Crafts

Worship

**Messy
Church**

Games

Food

Family Fun

FREE TO ATTEND

Young people under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult

LITTLE GREEN MEN

Does anyone remember Mike Harding? He is a stand up comedian, singer and song writer and known for his poetry and writing. He became president of the Ramblers Association and now at the age of 79 is life vice-president of that organisation. As a comic most of his shows would be in an evening and he liked to spend his days exploring churches in the towns where he was staying. It was in these that he started to notice stone carvings. Gargoyles, symbols, strange animals, monsters and faces peering through leaves and foliage, often with vines or similar coming out of their mouths. They are called green men. Mike was also a keen traveller and noticed these green men appearing in many places around the world including Borneo, Kathmandu in Nepal and Dankhar in northern India. These would be Tibetan Buddhist temples.

They are also in Jain temples in New Delhi, India and in Ranakpur, Rajasthan. A bit nearer to home they are in the Rosslyn Chapel near Edinburgh, as seen in the film 'The DaVinci Code' starring Tom Hanks. In that Chapel there are said to be 103 images of green men but only one of Jesus!

They are in cathedrals including Beverley in Yorkshire and Exeter in Devon. Many churches in Shropshire also have them. A beautifully carved wooden head is on one of the misericords in Ludlow church. Misericords are fold-up seats used by the choir. A most unusual one is over the north door at Linley church between Bridgnorth and Broseley. The north door was often left open at baptisms so that any devils in the child would be driven out. The north side was facing the dark and it was believed that was where evil came from. The Linley green man is unusual in being one of the few full bodied ones, not just a head.

In terms of multiple carvings the real gem is Kilpeck church in Herefordshire and it is the carvings there that give us the Alveley connection. The sculptors at Kilpeck were from the Herefordshire school of Romanesque sculpture (1134-1155) and they covered the doorway and outside walls with the most wonderful monsters, serpents, animals, green men and Sheila-na-gigs. The parish magazine is probably not the place to discuss Sheila-na-gigs.

The former Bell Inn in Alveley, which is now a private house, contains 19 similar carvings by the same people. Among them are Sampson and the lion, a pelican, St Michael and the dragon, a Knight in foliage and two more dragons. They range from 8 inches square to approximately 2 feet square. They are not believed to be originally from this building but where they came from is not certain. They could have been in our church and then removed in one

of the remodellings that St Mary's has undergone over the centuries. The period of these carvings (1134-1155) coincides with the building of St Mary's (1140-1180) Or they could have come from a now ruined Chapel at Rom-sley which was very near to the Manor house where Guy LeStrange lived. He was given the Manor and its lands by Henry the second and was the founder of St Mary's. His stone coffin is to the right of the main door.

St Mary's is notable for having almost no carvings or other embellishments but there is a Green man. It is not a very good one and it may be an unfinished carving but it is definitely a Green man. If you stand a few feet away from the vestry door you will see a stone pillar either side. At the top of the left hand pillar is a square stone and on the corner of this is a carving that has eyes, a nose and vines coming from it. It is not particularly easy to see. There are similar ones in a church in Huntington and one in Peterborough. These Green men are said to represent our unity with the natural world and were regarded by early Christians as representing the energy of life reborn in Christ. They were adopted by the early Church to symbolise Easter and the resurrection. Medieval legend has the tree of life growing from seeds planted in Adam's mouth.

Roy Page

WHAT COLOUR IS THAT?

Sweet Embrace and Tranquil Dawn

Golden Jasmine, Copper Blush

Wild Mushroom and Grey Steel

(How does all this make you feel?)

Snowy Scene of Mineral Haze

Sapphire Salute of Clouded Pearl

The Jewels of Night surround my heart –

I'm only reading a colour chart!

Nigel Beeton

The word 'aerobics' was invented when the gym instructors got together and said: 'If we're going to charge £20 an hour, we can't call it Jumping Up and Down.'

ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROTA OCTOBER 2024

Please ring the churchwarden (see page 4) if you are unable to carry out your duty.

Date	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions	Chalice	Sidespersons	Refreshments
October 6	David Hampson Job 1.1,2.1-10	Liz Bullas Mark 10.2-16	Jackie Hampson	Dale & Sue Chidwick	Pat Haw Jenny Sirrell	David & Jackie Hampson
October 13	Laura Simms Mark 10.17-31				Fred & Pauline Cooper	Anne & Laura Simms
October 20	Michael York Joel 2.21-27	Keith Pearson Matthew 6.25-33	Jackie Campbell	Alison Pearson Carol Wall	Diana Kenne- dy Carol Wall	Pat Bowyer Irene Orford
October 27	Paul Walford Mark 10.46-52				David & Jackie Hampson	David & Jackie Hampson St Mary's Team

DIARY 2024

- Oct 2** Wild Toddlers (theme: Autumn), S.V.C.P. 11am-12, (p 11)
- 5 Messy Church, 3pm-5pm, St Mary's (p 17)
- 6 'Wanderlust' Canadian duo, Quatt Village Hall 2.30pm (p 9)
- 8 Alveley W.I. breakfast, Quatt Farm Shop, 9.30am (p 12)
- 8 Alveley & Romsley Parish Council Open Forum, Pavilion 7.30pm (p 9)
- 9 Wild Toddlers (theme: smells), S.V.C.P. 11am (p 11)
- 9 Alveley W.I.meeting with Max Keen, Pavilion, 7pm (p 12)
- 12 Alveley Tennis club free Open Session, 10a-qm-12 (p 13)
- 14 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
- 16 Wild Toddlers (theme: Halloween), S.V.C.P. 11am (p 11)
- 20 Harvest Festival and lunch, St Mary's (p 5)
- 21 Be Café, Old Chapel 2pm-4pm (p 17)
- 23 Vision For The Future meeting, Sports Club 8pm (p 10)
- 25 Alveley Cricket Club Firework Display and Halloween Party
- 28 Alveley Art Group, Village Hall, 10am-1pm
- 30 Camouflage Fun & Shelter Buidling, S.V.C.P.(time t.b.c) (p 11)
- Nov 1** 'Done to Death', Quatt Village Hall 7.30pm (p 9)
- 8 'The Plot Thickens', Arts Alive presentation, Alveley V. Hall 7.30pm (p 9)
- 13 Alveley W.I. AGM, Pavilion 7pm (p 12)
- 15 Alveley Entertainers' Film Night, Village Hall 7.30pm
- 22 Dementia Information Day, Bridgnorth Rugby Club, 10am-3pm (p 16)
- 29 Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's (till December 2nd) (p 16)
- December 4** Christmas wreath making, S.V.C.P. 10am-12.30 & 1pm-2.30pm (p 11)
- 7 Alveley Village Hall Christmas Market, from 12 noon (p 9)
- 11 Christmas wreath making, S.V.C.P. 10am-12.30 & 1pm-2.30pm (p 11)



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WHO'S WHO - A GUIDE TO ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Alveley Art Group	Jane Hunt		780280
Alveley Bellringers	Roy Page		07704 362285
Alveley Charities	Daryl Cooper		780378
Alveley Cricket Club	Richard Twigg		780437
Alveley Day Centre	Sue Taylor 07973 343491		
	Angela Lander 07952 172691	Pat Bowyer 07964 377840	
Alveley Entertainers	Ian Maddock		780936
Alveley First Responders	Martin Hill		780794
Alveley Historical Society	Lorraine Heath		07970 637727
Alveley Ladies' Guild	Barbara Spragg 780200	Kath Bishop	780707
Alveley Mining Heritage	Andrea Edwards		862064
Alveley Old Chapel	Mo Morgan		07777624664
Alveley Parish Council/Street Lights	Steve Kerry		07711788782
Alveley Patient Group	Chris Noble		780715
Alveley Pétanque Club	David Voysey		780356
Alveley Rec Assn/Pavilion	Margaret Shaw		780459
Alveley School	Mr.P. O'Malley		780284
Alveley Singers	Penny Jenkins		780660
Alveley Tennis Club	Roger Whitworth		07946 094488
Alveley Village Band	Harry		07747 612318
Alveley Village Hall	Norma Crabtree		780478
Alveley Village Hall bookings	Carol Hatfield		780576
Alveley W.I.	Sue Taylor		07973 343491
Arden Allotments Association	Sally Neville		780931
B'noth Community Transport - Alveley Minibus	Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 only)		768539
Chapel Crafters	Angela Lander 07952172691	Jenny Sirrell	07484806605
Community Oil Scheme	Dave Dugmore		780058
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Friends of Alveley School	Sarah Carr		780284
Howard Thompson Bequest	Jackie Hampson		780034
Music in St. Mary's	Andrew Crabtree		780478
Quatt Cricket Club	Jim Williamson		07790 033662
Quatt Malvern Parish Council	Bill Griffiths		766941
Quatt Village Hall bookings	Steph Hinton		781214
St. Mary's Choir	Brenda York		780144
St. Mary's Flowers	Wendy Aldwinckle		562159
Severn Park Ranger	Guy Border		781192
Squirrel Bowling Club	Hilary Smith		780609
Strollers & Striders Walking Group	Andrew Crabtree		780478
Voluntary Car Scheme	Community Transport (Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 only)		768539
Whittall Meadows Trust	Jan Higgins		780259

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR (780936) OF ANY CHANGES

THE BACK PAGE

If you should meet me in the near future you may find that I exude a healthy glow and wonder if I have been spending too much time in the sun. That's not too likely this year for sunshine has been here in fits and starts - though the Head Gardener and I did hit lucky with the weather during the last week of August when we were in sunny South Devon. (I was brought up a little further north on Dartmoor where we used to say 'Come to sunny Devon, where it rains six days out of seven).

The reason that I may have a ruddy hue is all down to tomatoes. We went to the R.H.S. Malvern Spring Show in May and I purchased three different varieties of tomato plants. They were planted in growbags outside the greenhouse and left on the solar automatic watering system while we were in France in May and June. They have produced a wonderful crop, but with the downside that the tomatoes have all appeared at the same time and so we have a glut.

Tomato chutney or pickle doesn't particularly appeal, despite the fact that a girlfriend, pre-Head Gardener I hasten to add, always used to call me 'pickle' - I have no idea why!

Buñol in Spain has a unique way of using its tomatoes, though it does seem rather extreme, a terrible waste of food and leaving a huge mess to clear up. La Tomatina Festival started the last Wednesday of August in 1945 when some young people spent time in the town square to attend the Giants and Big-Heads figures parade. One participant's Big-head fell off as a result of the festivities. The participants flew into a fit of rage, and began hitting everything in their path. There was a market stall of vegetables that fell victim to the fury of the crowd, as people started to pelt each other with tomatoes until the local forces ended the fruit battle. Events during the days before the fight include a paella contest near the town's square, tomato fireworks, and different music bands and parades around the medieval city centre. On Wednesday morning, the first event before the tomato battle is the "Palo Jabón", centred on a long greased pole with a piece of ham at its top. The goal is for participants to climb the pole and make the ham drop, which requires them to climb on each other. During this effort, other celebrants sing and dance in circles, and all participants are doused with water from hoses. Once the ham falls, the tomato battle commences. This year more than 23,000 people from 51 countries participated.

I think I'll stick to tomato soup, salads, tomatoes on toast and recipes from the Italian cook book - it's healthier and less wasteful!

If you have any ideas how I might use them I'd like to hear from you.

Ian

Please send items for the **November edition by 9 am on Thursday October 17th** to the editor (email ianmaddock@btinternet.com or phone 01746 780936). For advertising please contact David Hampson (telephone 01746 780034 or email david.hampson2025@gmail.com)



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